Camp Smith Testing

In Hawaii, some problems were encountered with fingerprints due to a recognized phenomenon: some women of Asian heritage have fingerprints with very low ridges. This can cause more false rejections than expected, denying access that should be authorized. Creating a unique configuration for these individuals solved this problem. Another cause for fingerprint errors can be occupation or hobby related. In one case, an individual who was an avid fisherman presented difficulties for the fingerprint reader simply because the constant use of his hands wore down the fingerprint ridge structure. The systems at Camp Smith are continuing in operation and users and security personnel are pleased with the unobtrusive nature of the system, and with the enhanced, layered security it provides.

Project Results

The results of both projects were very encouraging. The complete report on the Norfolk installation is available on the DON eBusiness Operations Office Web site, www.don-ebusiness.navsup.navy.mil. The report for the Camp Smith installation will be added to the site in the near future.

Future Applications

There is enormous potential to reduce the number of physical security tokens used throughout DoD to move toward standard interoperability. In these projects, the decision to use the CAC as the primary token in physical security has generated healthy debate between the physical security community and the CAC community. The challenge for the Navy and Marine Corps is to standardize the technology that supports a variety of installed electronic security systems, enhances the level of security and is scalable throughout DoD. There are many more technologies to evaluate, and operationally test prior to procuring the next generation of CAC.

The Norfolk and Camp Smith projects demonstrated that biometrics in an open architecture, embedded chip can meet the functional demands of the physical security community for access control. There are other maturing contactless and biometric technologies that need to be evaluated. As with all technologies, there are vulnerabilities that need to be investigated, and efficiencies, benefits, risks and costs to be weighed. As the Navy and Marine Corps move ahead and adopt more high-tech solutions at an accelerated pace, the lessons learned from these pilot projects serve to guide aggressive adoption of biometrics.

Other eBusiness Solutions

As with the biometric technology pilot projects, the DON eBusiness Operations Office has delivered new technologies to many areas, including communications, readiness, training, maintenance, logistics, engineering and procurement. One technology tested by the Seabees (Naval Construction Force) in Operation Iraqi Freedom, provided a secure battlefield network for transmittal of text and photographs, resulting in greatly enhanced combat communications.

Information on how commands can submit eBusiness ideas for pilot funding is available on the DON eBusiness Operations Office Web site, www.don-ebusiness.navsup.navy.mil.

Interested in pursing a Masters or Doctorate? If you are, then you should read on.

The Information Assurance Scholarship Program (IASP), now in its third academic year, is a relatively new program that is expected to grow in the coming years to meet the increasing demands for information technology professionals with an information assurance focus. IASP was authorized by Chapter 112, Title 10, United States Code, to respond to DoD's recognized dependence on information technology for warfighting and the security of its information infrastructure.

This year, DoD will focus on enabling qualified civilians and military members to participate in both full-time and part-time study to complete master's degrees or to begin full-time doctoral programs in information assurance disciplines.

Department of the Navy (DON) civilian and military members may apply for IA scholarships through their Service chain-of-command to the DON CIO. Detailed instructions on the DON nomination process for a scholarship are available at www.doncio.navy.mil/iasp and general information is available at www.dod.mil/nii/iasp. The institutions offering full-time academic programs leading to a master's or doctoral degree are the Information Resources Management College (IRMC) of the National Defense University (NDU) in cooperation with IRMC's partner universities located throughout the United States, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). Part-time academic programs leading to a master's degree are available only through IRMC and selected partnering institutions. These part-time programs may be completed in residence or via distance learning. Partner universities continue to grow as the program matures. The DoD IASP Web site www.dod.mil/nii/iasp is the best source for the most current information.

The cost of tuition, fees and books at IRMC and IRMC's partnering institutions, and at NPS and AFIT will be covered by the program. Additionally, TDY expenses are funded for students attending the full-time IRMC program. Any other TDY and/or PCS costs must be covered by the nominating component. Participants will continue to receive their military pay or civilian salaries from their component throughout the course of study. In the future, DoD may expand the program to include associate and undergraduate degrees, and certificate programs, as permitted by the statute.

For more information go to www.doncio.navy.mil/iasp.